

"For Love of Country®: In My Own Words"

Rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders:

Win up to \$100 this summer;
make your future easier and
more fun!

Just write an essay or poem
answering the question:

What Does Democracy Mean to You?

Fill out the cover sheet on the
back of this brochure or visit
bit.ly/FCPL_FLOC



Entries are due by
Sept. 2, 2023



For Love of Country® Foundation
1300 Army Navy Drive, Unit 309 Arlington, VA 22202



Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway,
Suite 324
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-3100
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library



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or TTY 711

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For Love of Country®: In My Own Words

The Fairfax County Public Library
and For Love of Country®
Foundation present

The 14th Annual Essay and Poetry Contest

What Does Democracy Mean to You?

For rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders
June 16 – Sept. 2, 2023

Rules and Guidelines:

- 1) All students entering 7th, 8th and 9th grade as of August 2023 are eligible for the contest.
 - 2) All work submitted must be original work.
 - 3) One entry per student is permitted (one essay or one poem).
 - 4) Essay work will be judged on:
 - Originality and creativity;
 - Persuasiveness;
 - Clarity, coherence and organization;
 - Grammar and spelling.
- Poetry will be judged on:
- Originality and creativity;
 - Relevance to contest topic;
 - Clarity and coherence;
 - Spelling.
- 5) Submit one copy of your work to your nearest Fairfax County Public Library branch or online at libraryevents@fairfaxcounty.gov by Sept. 2, 2023 at 6 p.m.
 - 6) Essay/poem must be accompanied with a completed cover sheet.
 - 7) The winners will be notified by Oct. 6; prizes will be awarded in October, date TBD.
 - 8) Essays/poems will not be returned.

Multiple awards of \$100, \$50, and \$25, as well as Certificates of Merit, will be awarded in both the essay and poetry categories.

**\$100 & Gold Certificate
\$50 & Silver Certificate
\$25 & Bronze Certificate
Certificate of Merit**

Cover sheet

Please print clearly

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Grade (Fall of 2023): _____

School Name: _____

My neighborhood library branch is: _____

Student

I have followed the rules and guidelines as outlined; my work is original work. If my writing is selected, I agree that the Fairfax County Public Library, For Love of Country Foundation© and/or media outlets may use my work.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian

I have read the rules and guidelines and allow my child to submit an original essay/poem to the Fairfax County Public Library. I understand that this work may be posted online and/or used in other media outlets (using only first name and last initial to identify).

Parent/Guardian Signature